



Gulf Region Division



NEWS RELEASE



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USACE Chief of Engineers visits GRD Headquarters

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Gulf Region Division



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Commanding General Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp speaks to a group of GRD employees at an Awards and Hail/Patch Ceremony held at Victory Base Complex near Baghdad Sept. 22. (GRD photo by Juan Espinoza)

Baghdad, Iraq — Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp, U.S. Army Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, was the keynote speaker at an Awards and Hail/Patch Ceremony held at the Gulf Region Division Headquarters at Victory Base Complex Sept. 22.

The purpose of the Awards and Hail/Patch Ceremony was to welcome new members to the Gulf Region Division as well as recognize departing team mem-

bers for their contributions to the Iraq reconstruction effort. In addition, military personnel who have served at least 30 days in theater were presented the USACE patch, originally approved for USACE Engineer Divisions in 1977.

More than 100 people attended the ceremony, observing as Van Antwerp presented awards to members of the GRD team and thanked employees for their service to the nation.

During his remarks, Van Antwerp talked about the valued commitment that DoD Civilians have made to support the reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Since 2003, more than 10,000 civilians have deployed to support the reconstruction efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan," said Van Antwerp. "It was an amazing answer to a call to serve."

The Chief of Engineers also discussed the contributions of the various service-members who are deployed with GRD.

"I am here mostly to say thanks for your service to our Nation and the people of Iraq," said Van Antwerp.

Although the Gulf Region Division will officially inactivate on Oct. 23, Van Antwerp said GRD team members — past and present — should be proud of the role they played in rebuilding Iraq.



Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp, USACE Commanding General, presents a Superior Civilian Service Award to Bernice Chavez, an administrative support assistant in GRD's G-1 Office. Chavez is nearing the completion of her third tour in Iraq. (GRD photo by Juan Espinoza)

"The Gulf Region Division has managed more than \$9 billion in reconstruction projects for the people of Iraq," said Van Antwerp. "You have left a legacy here that will never be forgotten." As part of a larger theater assessment, Van Antwerp also visited GRD project sites throughout Iraq and participated in award ceremonies at the Gulf Region District and Gulf RegionSouth District.

The Gulf Region Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Iraq has completed thousands of reconstruction projects in partnership with the U.S. government and the government of Iraq. Since 2004, GRD has completed 5,257 projects throughout Iraq valued at more than \$8.9 billion, and has 361 projects ongoing.

The Gulf Region Division, headquartered in Baghdad, is a joint effort comprising Civilians, Soldiers, Sailors, Air-men and Contractors. GRD provides quality and sustainable engineering in support of civil/military construction in Iraq. GRD and its Iraqi partners are building a strong foundation for Iraq's future. BUILDING STRONG® is the official slogan of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

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